

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 11 and 12 are added. Accordingly, claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The May 22 Office Action rejects claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent 6,290,328; hereinafter "Yamada"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, Yamada deals exclusively with inkjet printers having inkjet nozzles, rather than impact printers having pins. Claim 1 recites "a pitch of pins of the printing head is not any one of an integral vertical resolution," and "each of a plurality of the pins provided in the vertical direction," and "preparing a raster-line/pin-relationship table in which the pin is to be actuated," and "printing the predetermined range by actuating the pins." Similarly, claim 6 recites "a pitch of pins of the printing head" and "a raster-line/pin-relationship table describing pins to be actuated." These features are not disclosed in Yamada. Because Yamada deals with an inkjet printer rather than an impact printer, nowhere in Yamada are the "pins" disclosed.

As set forth in Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Company of California, (814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)), "a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference." Since Yamada deals with an inkjet printer, the element of "pins" is neither expressly nor inherently described, and therefore, claim 1 cannot properly be rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Yamada.

Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 6 are patentable over the cited reference. Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1, and claims 7-10 depend from claim 6. Therefore, each of claims 2-5 and 7-10 are patentable for the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 6, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn.

Yamada does not disclose "examining a relationship of a position ... when a unit of vertical transfer of the printing head is not a reciprocal of an integral vertical resolution of the print data," as recited in claim 11 and similarly recited in claim 12. In fact, Yamada does not disclose any vertical transfer of the printing head at all. Yamada discloses only that the recording medium is advanced (see col. 11, lines 16-17 and lines 29-30). The advancement of the recording medium is the only relative motion disclosed between the recording medium and the print head in Yamada. This is in contrast to the present invention which uses a vertical transfer means to displace the printing head vertically relative to the recording medium.

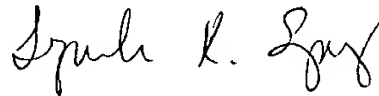
Furthermore, the feature recited in claims 11 and 12 of "a pitch of the marking elements of the printing head is not any one of an integral multiple of the vertical resolution and the reciprocal of the integral vertical resolution" is not disclosed in Yamada. Yamada requires the number of passes to be equal to the required output resolution divided by the nozzle resolution (see col. 12, lines 25-28). This ratio is defined to be an integer, which determines the number of passes in Yamada. Thus, Yamada actually teaches away from the features recited in claims 11 and 12, because the nozzle resolution is required to be an integral multiple of the output resolution.

Therefore, Yamada does not disclose the feature "a unit of vertical transfer of the printing head is a not a reciprocal of an integral vertical resolution of the print data, and a pitch of the marking elements of the printing head is not any one of an integral multiple of the vertical resolution and the reciprocal of the integral vertical resolution" as recited in claim 11 and similarly recited in claim 12. Therefore, independent claims 11 and 12 are patentable over Yamada.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Jaquelin K. Spong
Registration No. 52,241

JAO:JKS/scg

Attachments:

Request for Continued Examination (RCE)
Amendment Transmittal Letter

Date: January 26, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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